

MINUTES OF THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Oneida County Courthouse – 9:00 a.m. – Committee Room 1

Members Present: Chairman Tom Rudolph, Wilbur Petroskey, Matt Matteson, Jack Martinson, Gary Baier, and Rod Kuczmariski.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Nancy Hollands (County Conservationist); Barb Payne (Secretary); Chuck Wickman (County Supervisor); Peter Wolk (County Board Supervisor); Tom Melnarik (NRCS Soil Conservation Technician); Kim Goerg (Lumberjack RC&D Coordinator).

Call to Order

Chairman Rudolph called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room #1 on the second floor at the Oneida County Courthouse. He noted that the meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Committee has been properly noticed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and meets the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Approve Agenda/Approve Minutes

Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey, to approve the minutes from the October 13th meeting and the current agenda with the order of agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman. Motion carried; all ayes.

Set date for next meetings

Chairman Rudolph noted the next meeting date will be Wednesday, December 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comments

No comments.

Wildlife Damage Program Services – Agreement with USDA/APHIS for 2010

Hollands reported she is still working with Bob Willging and Brian Desmond on getting a final draft of the agreement completed. Hollands stated the County doesn't require insurance with this agreement, as USDA/APHIS is a federal agency. The Finance Committee still needs to grant a waiver on the insurance requirement. Hollands informed the Committee the agreement shows a three-year time frame and not a one-year agreement as previously mentioned.

County Cost Share Program/Landowner Contracts

Hollands reported Hansen has completed all the projects that were carryovers from 2008. Hansen is busy working on committing the 2009 funds before the December 31st deadline. Hansen recommended using the 70% (state) - 30% (landowner) cost share funding for 2009. Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve utilizing the 70/30 cost share percentages for 2009. Motion carried; all ayes.

Hansen submitted cost estimates for the **Camp Luther** project. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to approve the lowest cost estimate of \$12,956.00 from Integrity Landscaping. Motion carried; all ayes. Hansen submitted the cost estimate for the **Noesges** project. Motion by Matteson, second by Martinson to approve the lowest cost estimate of \$7,657.00 from Integrity Landscaping. Motion carried; all ayes.

Hansen reported her concerns with a potential project. Hansen explained this property had an area which was filled in which created an artificial extension of the shoreline. This alteration was done by a previous owner. Hansen questioned if the Committee felt it was permissible to cost share on this proposed project as the additional extension is not the original shoreline. Committee discussion followed. The Committee was in agreement that if the DNR issued a permit to the current property owner, then the Committee would approve participation in the cost share program. They felt the current landowner should not be penalized for what was done in the past.

Update on Conservation Specialist Position

Hollands and Hansen thanked the Committee for their support in the process of restoring the Conservation Specialist Position to 100% in the Land and Water Conservation Department.

Small Scale Grant for Dissolved Oxygen Meter

Hansen reported she was recently approached by Kevin Gauthier, DNR, about applying for this small grant in the amount of \$1,500.00. Hansen explained the monies for this grant would provide a dissolved oxygen meter for volunteers involved with the Citizens Lake Monitoring Program to check out. This grant is 75% funded and the remaining 25% would be in-kind services documented by volunteers. Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to apply for this small scale grant for a dissolved oxygen meter for the February 1, 2010 grant period. Motion carried; all ayes.

Report on Terrestrial Invasive Species Meeting, October 28 - Woodruff

Kim Goerg, Lumberjack RC&D Coordinator, reported that the Lumberjack RC&D Council approved \$6,000.00 in funding to assist WI Headwaters Invasive Partnership (WHIP) for 2 – 3 years, with the exception of sponsoring activities that present unprotected liability exposure to Lumberjack RC&D. Activities on private land or advice given to private land owners are a liability concern. Liability concerns need to be resolved before a higher level of sponsorship will be considered by the Lumberjack RC&D Council. Hansen reported on the WHIP monthly meeting that was held at the Woodruff Town Hall on October 28. Mapping activities are being conducted for Garlic Mustard and Japanese Knotweed.

Update on status of AIS Coordinator Position

Hollands reported 57 applicants applied for this position. The LRES Department is currently in the process of screening the applications for the AIS Coordinator. The vacancy will most likely be filled by the beginning of next year.

Update/Status of AIS Grants/Budget/Activities

Hollands reported we have received the official DNR grant forms for the \$47,147.00 AIS grant that we applied for in August. This grant pays for 75% of the costs which will fund the operational expenses. The County's 25% portion will be the in-kind match of the AIS Coordinator's salary and fringe benefits. Committee Discussion followed.

DNR Grant Agreement for Project No. AEPP – 202 - 10

Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to authorize Chairman Rudolph to sign the DNR – AIS Grant Agreement for Project No. AEPP – 202 – 10. Motion carried; all ayes.

DNR Secretary Appointment

Rudolph stated the Governor vetoed the legislation allowing the DNR Secretary to be appointed by the DNR Board. The Governor currently appoints the DNR Secretary. Rudolph urged the Committee to respond immediately with a letter to our legislators and request they proceed with the process to override the Governor's veto on the DNR Secretary appointment. Committee discussion followed. Motion by Baier, second by Petroskey to draft a resolution making the DNR Secretary an elected position. The resolution would then be presented to the County Board for approval. Motion carried; (5 ayes and 1 nay – Martinson)

WLWCA Annual Conference, December 9 and 10, La Crosse

Hollands summarized the details for the upcoming WLWCA Annual Conference. Hollands stated the county van has been reserved. Hollands stated if someone is unable to attend, to let her know as soon as possible.

Lake Districts/Agency Reports (FSA, NRCS, LWCD, UWEX, DNR, LWCB, WLWCA, & RC&D)

Bear Lake District – Martinson reported there is a meeting on November 19th. Apparently there has been a court ruling by concerning landowners who aren't permanent residents.

Mid Lake District – Petroskey had nothing to report.

Thunder Lake District – Baier had nothing to report.

Horsehead Lake District – Rudolph reported Horsehead Lake held a special meeting on October 24th. Onterra presented the lake study they conducted. The study showed that overall Horsehead Lake is in fairly good shape. They will be having their regular meeting on November 19th. They are experiencing some problems with the aerator that is used in winter.

FSA – Kuczarski reported signups have begun. If a producer has drought damage to their crops, they should contact the Farm Service Agency. The signups include the four counties. Kuczarski stated it has been really tough on crop production with the irregular rainfall patterns occurring in the last four or five years. Kuczarski encouraged anyone interested in the programs to stop in and see Susan Hunter at the Farm Service Agency.

NRCS – Tom Melnarik, Soil Conservation Technician, reported on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CPS). It is a voluntary program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. Melnarik briefly explained the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). NRCS has been working with the Forest County Forestry Service checking on older culverts located on trout streams and their effect on water quality with water and sediment run off.

LWCD – Hollands reported the Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association will be conducting a Wisconsin Lakes Association workshop at Nicolet College on June 10, 2010. Hollands stated the County held Government Day this week. Hansen and Hollands participated in this event. The staff is working on the final wrap up of this year's County Speaking and Poster Contest. The Poster Awards Ceremony was held at the Courthouse in the County Board Room on November 12th. Approximately forty-five to fifty children and adults attended. The Governor recently signed a bill banning phosphorus.

UWEX – Hollands reported Kuzlik is currently in Phoenix. The Building and Grounds Committee recently went on record stating the Health Department will be moved to the former WI Public Service Building. They were directed to do an assessment of the area that is currently occupied by the Health Department for future placement of the UWEX and Land and Water Conservation Departments.

DNR – No one present to report.

LWCB – Rudolph reported the Board is still working on the annual report which is due in January. A draft is currently being reviewed. On November 19th Rudolph will be participating in a conference call to go over the draft report. The next meeting will be December 1st in Madison.

WLWCA – Rudolph reported the WLWCA Annual Conference will be held on December 9th and 10th in La Crosse.

RC&D – Kim Goerg, Lumberjack RC&D Coordinator, reported the Council approved the 2010 Work Plan. He encouraged members to attend the Sustainable Forestry Conference which will be held in April of 2010. The next Lumberjack RC&D meeting will be held on Friday, January 29, 2010 in Forest County. Most of the projects in the work plan for 2010 were approved for funding. The Lumberjack RC&D Council is doing well. They employ seven full time foresters. They have an Aquatic Invasive Coordinator for the next 2 ½ years.

Monthly Budget Review

Motion by Petroskey, second by Martinson to approve the monthly budget review for September and October for the Land and Water Conservation Program, the Wildlife Damage Program, and the Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Motion carried; all ayes.

Travel Authorization

Motion by Martinson, second by Matteson to approve attendance at the following meeting. Motion carried; all ayes.

- November 18, 2009 WHIP Meeting Woodruff, Wisconsin

Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers

Motion by Matteson, second by Petroskey to approve the invoices as presented. Motion carried; all ayes.

A list of the approved bills is kept on file and is available upon request.

Items for the next meeting agenda

Items will be determined as suggested during current meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Motion by Petroskey, second by Baier. Motion carried; all ayes.

Thomas Rudolph
Chairman

Nancy Hollands
County Conservationist